

Newsletter

March 2021

www.whitsundaylandcare.org.au



Find us on Facebook



Central QLD Coast **Landcare** Network

A partnership for the natural resource management of catchments in the Central QLD Coast Bioregions.

CATCHMENT COORDINATOR:

Cath Campbell Ph.: 0483 811 229

coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au

PROJECT OFFICER:

Chris Barbeler Ph.: 0488 768 567

project@whitsundaylandcare.or.g.au

CONTACT US FOR INFORMATION:

- Natural Resource Management
- Land management Plans
- Native plants
- Environmental weeds
- Volunteer activities

BECOME A VOLUNTEER:

Come seed collecting; learn to identify native plants; how to propagate them; improve your environment; enjoy the outdoors in a fun, social setting.

If you're interested in doing your bit for the environment and socialising with like-minded people, we offer coordinated activities on Tuesday & Thursday mornings and more. Contact us!

WCL Management Committee:

Graham Armstrong, Chair
Jacquie Sheils, Secretary
Glenda Hodgson, Treasurer
Dale Mengel
John Casey
WRC representative- CR. Gary Simpson
One Community position vacant

WCL is a community not-for-profit group, relying on grants & donations. We are a registered charity donations of

We are a registered charity; donations of

our



GiveNow.com.au

\$2 or more are tax deductible. To make a donation please contact us or go to



Coming Up in March 2021

COMMUNITY NURSERY OPEN FOR PLANT SALES (CASH ONLY)

9am-12noon Tuesday, Thursday & the 1st Saturday of each month-Next Saturday opening—6th March 2021

Twin Creek Community Planting-

Volunteer Event – Sunday 21st March 9am– 12pm– See page 2 for detail

WCL 2019-2020-Annual Report is available on our website—www. whitsundaylandcare.org.au

At the Community Nursery & Volunteer Activities in March:
33 Kelsey Creek Rd Proserpine

Tuesday	Thursday
2nd March: Nursery Maintenance & propagation activities	4th: Propagation, Seed processing, Potting, Record keeping etc. at the nursery.
9th: Nursery Maintenance & propagation activities	11th: Propagation, Seed processing, Potting, Record keeping etc. at the nursery.
16th: Nursery Maintenance & propagation activities	18th: Propagation, Seed processing, Potting, Record keeping etc. at the nursery. Alternate Activity— XXXXXXX. See page 2 for details.
23rd: Nursery Maintenance & propagation activities	25th: Propagation, Seed processing, Potting, Record keeping etc. at the nursery.
30th: Nursery Maintenance & propagation activities	

WCL receives support from the following organizations:











REEF CLEAN—March Volunteer Event.

WCL has been contracted to undertake marine debris with Tangaroa Blue 4 times during the 2021 year. Graham & Jan Armstrong will be leading the events.

Conway Beach—Thursday 4th March From 8 am - *Please meet at the shelter shed at Conway Beach*

Wilsons Beach—Sunday 7th March . From 10am.-Please Meet at the Wilsons Beach access park.

Interested helpers can come along just for an hour or for the whole process (estimated 5hrs) All help appreciated.

Please wear long sleeves, closed in shoes and a hat.

Please contact Graham Armstrong – 0416 658 047 for more details. If you would like to participate.



Twin Creek Revegetation Project

Grant Funded by Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF)

Whitsunday Regional Council (WRC) invites
WCL Members & Volunteer to join local community
members attend a Planting Event—
Sunday 21st March 2021.

The GBRF have funded another 0.5ha of revegetation along the banks of Twin Creek. By revegetating the creek WRC will:

- Improve water quality in the creek
- Increase the area of riparian vegetation in the catchment
- Increase biodiversity in the area
- Increase the wild life corridor and connectivity between Conway national park and the coastal ecosystems of Pioneer Bay and
- Ensure the plant species are consistent with the regional creek ecosystems to attract native wildlife

Where: Twin Creek—the Lakes Parklands (Trader Court side of the reserve) Look for the lime green WCL gazebo where the sign on desk will be located

When: Sunday 21st March, 2021

Time: 9am- 12pm.

WRC will be providing a BBQ Water refills and sunscreen will be provided.

Please wear long sleeves, closed in shoes, a hat and bring your water bottle.

Please don't forget your gloves.



WCL Volunteer Planting Event—Thursday 18th February.

WCL has received a QLD Government Community Sustainability grant to undertake littoral rainforest restoration at Nelly Bay, Dingo Beach & Hydeaway Bay. We are planting a total of 500 plants at the 3 sites. WCL volunteers and staff completed the planting at Dingo Beach site on Thursday the 18th February, 2021.

WCL staff had prepared the site by electing to undertake mechanical control of the weeds and chose to minimise the use of herbicides within the sand dune system and nationally listed, critically endangered, littoral rainforest- Beach Scrub -plant community

Eight dedicated WCL Volunteers attended the morning event & 250 beach scrub tube stock were planted within an bare patch amongst mature remnant beach scrub that has been affected by previous cyclones. Some of the grant funds are allocated to the refilling of the Dingo Beach Fire Brigade's (DBFB) water tanks and with DBFB cooperation, WCL has been & will be able, to provide supplementary watering to previous plantings at Nelly Bay & Hydeaway Bay. This watering will be able to be continued during the coming dry season. Each tube stock is planted with water crystals, mixed through the backfill to help retain moisture around the root system, as the sandy soil drains very quickly. The recent rains will certainly helped in their establishment.

The littoral (the sea) rainforest plays a critical role in protecting the secondary dune system from the impacts of sever weather events. This plant community has a distinct and wide variety of plant species and plays an important role as coastal corridors and habitat for local & migratory birds as well as other fauna. Once common along the east coast, less that 30% of its original extents remain in patch disconnected remnants. The ongoing threats from clearing for urban development, weed invasion, vehicle & foot traffic, continues to take their toll. Overlay this with the impacts of severe weather events and the protection of this endangered ecosystem and



Above: WCL Volunteer Heather Marshall—water crystals in hand choosing the next plant to go in. Photos: Chris Barbeler

rehabilitation activities take on even greater importance. Thank you for your efforts WCL

Volunteers.



Above: WCL Volunteers – working diligently to re-establish beach scrub Photo: Chris Barbeler



Above: The area replanted by WCL Volunteers & Staff. Photo: Chris Barbeler

Getting to Know Our Whitsunday Wildlife & Plants

Steve Pearson is a local dedicated nature photographer. Steve is a retired QP&WS ranger who spent a large part of his career at Eungella and in the Whitsundays. Assisted by his wife Alison, Steve has accumulated a comprehensive photographic reference of plants and also, the less understood and under-appreciated elements of our region's ecology such as invertebrates and fungi. To view more of his photos go to – steveandalison1@flickr



Above: Psydrax odorata- flowers & leaves Photos: Steve & Alison Pearson

Some people love it and others don't.

At present in our Mandalay rainforest at Airlie Beach, we have a tree with fruit developing,. The Shiny-leaved Canthium tree- **Psydrax odorata** of **family Rubiaceae**. This has the local common name of Sweet Suzie. But it has had as many scientific names because it has many forms and grows in many countries.

Once known as Canthium odorata it has now been changed to Psydrax. Now that botany issues are linked by internet, this species has been sorted out and most are now internet linked automatically as Psydrax.

Name changes do caúse issúes for some and our feature plant was known as Canthium odoratum. This brings back memories of amazing problems name changes can create for competitive people. Years ago I had a really keen botanist tell me about finding a Psydrax bush and it was not on the list, a feather in his cap, especially as it was on my patch. He told me where he found it so first chance I got, I wandered about and

could not find any new plants, only Canthium bushes and they were on the list, so— it was too hard for me to find Psydrax and he never found Canthium. Some months later I found out that Psydrax was Canthium, the name had changed and because I was not totally up to date with name changes and I had gone on searching for the elusive Psydrax, (all that wasted energy). I have seen plant people argue over names, even get hostile and the crazy thing is, they can both be right.

Psydrax genus has about 100 species, mainly found in tropical areas and most Australian Canthiums have been transferred to Psydrax. We have a couple of species of Psydrax in our region. The main local coastal one is Psydax odorata, previously known as Canthium odoratum. One of our trees has fruit on it at present. Our specimens are small trees about 8 metres tall and growing in the thin low rainforest. Most often I have seen it locally on southerly sloping areas, flowering during the spring -summer months and with the fruits ripening late summer, the seeds will be dropping soon. With the sun has just passing overhead and heading north after the wet season, it makes me think that the Psydrax seeds prefer the moist shady forest floor to germinate.

It is common in the Whitsunday area of north Queensland and is leaves. Photos: Steve & Alison locally called Sweet Suzie bush. Ones growing out in open forest near the rainforest, have a dense canopy and some are covered with flowers that have a strong heady scent.

Above: Psydrax odorata- seed & leaves. Photos: Steve & Alison

The bushes growing out in the open have glossy green leaves, more glossy than those in the rainforest, as though to protect itself from the harsh November to March sun passing overhead. **The leaves are elliptical to lance-shaped to about 80 mm long 30 mm wide** but can be variable. The leaves out in sunlight curl and droop while those fighting for canopy space in the rainforest are slightly flattened lance shape and are more horizontal, filling the light gaps.

Our local Sweet Suzie bush flowers in spring and even the **flowers range in colour**. It seems that the ones in the rainforest are much fewer in number and mostly white, while the ones out in the open are almost yellow. The trees out in the open flower the heaviest and their flowers often occur in massive clusters. The flowers are followed by **fruits about 5 -8 mm in diameter containing 2 seeds,** but again there is variation. The open forest bush fruits are fleshy and go black, as if to attract the birds, while the rainforest ones are much less fleshy, almost leathery and do not always go fully black.

Our rainforest tree is fruiting now, very poorly but, we are keeping an eye out for ripe fruits. If you know where there are plants in open forest, you might be able to keep an eye out for their fruit. **Propagation can be carried out by both seed and cuttings**. Seeds should be separated from the fruit pulp prior to sowing and it is reported that seeds germinate best after soaking in water for 24 hours, discarding any seeds that float. Cuttings of hardened current season's growth, should be used but the strike rate may be less than 100%. Sweet Suzie bush, Psydrax odorata is very slow growing, the tree trunk is not real flexible and one of our trees in the rainforest snapped off in cyclone Debbie.

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It snapped off about 5 metres up the trunk and died. Interestingly for me with the night time moth

lights an unusual moth turned up recently, another new one for us.

It was an unusual spotty moth Dudgeonea actinias of family Dudgeoneidae and when Alison looked into it she found out that this moth laid its eggs on Psydrax/Canthium tree trunks and the grubs bore in and eat the timber, so most likely our sweet suzie tree that was snapped off and died, even in death was host to the grubs of this pretty moth, isn't nature amazing, newness, even from cyclonic destruction.





Above: Dudgeonea actinias moth Photos: Steve & Alison Pearson

What does this look like to you?? Over cooked spaghetti???

Well it is the vascular system of a badly burnt tree— the exposed phloem cells found under the outer layer of bark. This vascular system transports mineral & sugars between the photosynthesising leaves & root system of the tree.

Aren't plants amazing. Source: Facebook



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Spider of the moment ARTICLE.

THEY ARE BACK!, but in small numbers. Who are they? One of the **ant mimic spiders Myrmarachne sp aff smaragdina of family Salticidae** that looks much like the ant it feeds on, the Jungle Green Weaver ant Oecophylla smaragdina, (notice the smaragdina part of both names, smaragdina refers to the yellow-green colour of the ant's gaster).

This spider is found occasionally in rainforest and open woodland in northern Australia and they are here in our patch. Cyclone Debbie flogged the tree tops here really bad, left them leafless and in doing so destroyed the nests of the Green Weaver ant Oecophylla smaragdina and most of the queens. S the green ants have been slow to return. Now the trees have grown leaves, the arts can make

return. Now the trees have grown leaves, the ants can make new nests. You may have notices the queens flying about lately and looking to start new nests.

The flow on effect of having no ants meant these jungle ant mimic spiders Myrmarachne sp aff smaragdina also disappeared. I'm not sure if the cyclone did it directly or they starved because the cyclone wiped out nearly all the ants. Anyhow the green ants are back in numbers now, so there is

food for the ant mimic spiders Myrmarachne sp aff smaragdina.

While checking out a bush with its rolled leaves I noticed movement and out popped an ant mimic spider, an unusual coloured one—Amber with tangerine short fangs, it was a female Myrmarachne sp aff smaragdina. How did I know it was female, well if you look at the photos you will see the female has what we think are small fangs and the male has, what we think, looks like really long fangs -although they are not fangs but chelicerae. Males use their enlarged, spiny chelicerae in combat with other males and victory in combat leads to being the survivor and be available to mate, which may lead to genetic selection for larger chelicerae. There is also written info suggesting the male huge chelicerae are thought to resemble a food parcel or ant larvae. The male looks like an ant carrying a larva thus fooling oncoming ants and allowing them to get closer for attack but it does not say whether the females are handicapped and poorer at hunting. Maybe it is the opposite and the females are such good hunters they do not need something to hide behind.

Myrmarachne sp aff smaragdina are a little larger than the jungle green ants, but because they nearly perfectly mimic the



Above: Female Myrmarachne sp. Aff smaragdina spider. Photo: Steve & Ali-



Above: The home of Myrmarachne sp. Aff smaragdina spider. Photo: Steve & Alison Pearson



Above: Male Myrmarachne sp. Aff smaragdina spider. Photo: Steve & Alison

green ant, Oecophylla smaragdina, this is referred to as Batesian mimicry. Batesian mimicry is where the mimic has evolved to resemble relatively unpalatable animals to appear unpleasant to predators. These spiders live near travel trails of colonies of green ants and hide in rolled leaves and sneak attack the jungle ants as they pass by. If the other ants see it happen they rush in to attack the spider but like other ant eater spiders, it flees to fight another day.

These spiders have survived tough at times and although there are only a few here since cyclone Debbie, they will increase as the trees and vines grow more leaves for homes and food to feed more bugs and in turn feed more ants and spiders—so hopefully it won't be long till they get back to normal pre-cyclone numbers.

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Spider article continued:

Before Cyclone Debbie when there were quite a few of these mimic spiders, I learnt that they were sensitive to vibrations. I have a shaving mirror near the back door where there is plenty of daylight to shave, so I stand there ,where there is good light and use a battery powered shaver O would often see Salticidae jumper spiders come out of hiding and out onto the shaving mirror, actively searching for my razor when it was switched on.

These lovely Myrmarachne sp aff smaragdina spider were there from time to time, so maybe something to keep in mind, if you are looking for spiders take along a battery powered razor and switch it on and look for spiders coming out of hiding, happy spider finding.





Integrated Weed Management Field Days

Wednesday, 17 March - Sonoma Station, Collinsville Thursday, 18 March - Gee Dee Rd, 20km west of Bowen 9am-1pm (lunch provided both days).

- · Demonstrations site landholder feedback.
- Equipment display, including Bowen Collinsville Landcare demonstration of new gear.
- Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and Whitsunday Regional Council updates.









Mulcher Head, Woody Weed Sucker Puller, Splatter Gun, Mister, Quik Spray Units

For more information and to reserve a spot please contact:

Mark O'Connor 0456 554 710 Adrienne Hall 0428 158 859

Sheridan Callcott 0439 421 994 Rodger Walker 0408 828 276

RSVP by 10 March for catering







Info Pest News—February 2021

Feral pigs in focus

There are many vertebrate pests that cause Australian land holders and crop growers much loss and destruction. Not the least among them are feral pigs. Hoggone meSN feral Pig Bait has been recently approved by the APVMA, offering users an effective, fast-acting, and humane solution to target feral pigs. Sodium nitrite is the active ingredient which pigs lack the protective enzyme to process the chemical, causing a swift death without suffering. Read Animal Control Technologies' media release.

Hoggone will be a valuable tool alongside the National Feral Pig Action Plan the first draft of the plan was submitted to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment on 15 January 2021. It's the first national action plan that has been developed to address reducing the impacts caused by feral pigs to Australia's environmental, agricultural, cultural and social assets through sustained, coordinated and collaborative actions by land managers.

This draft Plan is the culmination of extensive consultations with the NFPAP's Steering Group and our stakeholders, including the federal, state and territory, and local governments, multiple agricultural industries, natural resource management, environment and conservation groups, indigenous organisations and land managers around Australia. read the draft National Feral Pig Action Plan. https://feralpigs.com.au/the-plan/

Review of AgVet chemical regulations cause for concern

In September 2019, it was exciting to hear the then Minister for Agriculture, Senator Bridget McKenzie announce her plan to undertake a first principles review of the regulatory framework underpinning the National Registration Scheme for Agricultural Chemicals and Vetérinary Chemicals (AgVet chemicals). Since then, an independent panel has been appointed and an issue paper and draft consultation paper have been produced, outlining the Panel's vision for regulatory reform and excitement has turned to concern.

Growcom has prepared a submission to the Draft Review, representing issues that affect growers and then offering comment on the regulatory impacts of the changes proposed. Whilst Growcom appreciates the Panel's intent for being bold and innovative in their approach to the review of the AgVet chemical regulatory system, there is concern that the recommendations made will not achieve the desired result. Improving access to chemicals for growers is more about solving the minor use problem than implementing new levels of bureaucracy to regulate the system further. Growcom and other stakeholders have pointed out that whilst we do receive novel chemical actives registered in Australia, getting uses for smaller crops onto labels is where we struggle.

Read more: https://www.infopest.com.au/news/

INTERESTING WEB SITES:

Native Animals, Insects, Birds:

www.whitsundaylandcare.org.au http://www.wildlife.org.au/magazine/

http://www.aussiebee.com.au www.birdsinbackyards.net

www.australianmuseum.net.au/reptiles

http://birdlife.org.au/locations/birdlife-mackay/activitiesmac

Native plants:

http://ausgrass2.myspecies.info/content/oplismenus https://www.anbg.gov.au/cpbr/cd-keys/rfk/

https://www.eucalyptaustralia.org.au/ http://sgaptownsville.org.au/

www.facebook.com.au/sgapmackay

Wetlands

http://wetlandinfo.ehp.qld.gov.au/wetlands/ecology/ components/flora/mangroves/mangrove-moreton.html

Feral Animals: feralflyer@invasiveanimals.com https://alumni.uq.edu.au/cane-toad-baits

Feral plants:

www.weeds.org.au

www.environment.gov.au >Biodiversity >Invasive species

www.iewf.org/weedid/index by reserve.htm www.anbg.gov.au/cpbr/herbarium/

https://www.vision6.com.au/em/mail/view.php? id=1769275019&a=17056&k=a87f8df

WCL Community Nursery- Always

Needs Seeds

The WCL Nursery is very keen to source endemic seed so please keep an eye on your flowering native trees, shrubs & grasses for the volunteer nursery. Some of the species we need

Abutilon auritum Abutilon albescens Acacia aulacocarpa Acacia leptocarpa Acacia leptostachya Acacia simsii Alphitonia excelsa Alphitonia petriei

Antidesma parviflorum Aphananthe philippinensis

Archontophoenix alexandrae Alexander Palm Allocasuarina torulosa Black she-oak

Allocasuarina luehmannii

Aidia racemosa Archer Cherry Veiny Whitewood Atalaya rigida Coffee Bush Brevnia oblongifolia Cajanus reticulatus Native Pigeon Pea Freshwater mangrove Carallia brachiata

Pink Bloodwood

Morton Bav Ash

Red Bloodwood

Large leafed Laurel

Narrow-leafed Ironbark

QLD Peppermint

Native frangipani

QLD Blue Gum

Ribbonwood

Cluster fig

Casuarina cunninghamiana River oak Chionanthus ramiflorus Native Olive

Cordia dichotoma

Cordia subcordata Sea Trumpet

Corymbia clarksoniana Corymbia intermedia Corymbia tessellaris Corymbia erythrophloia Cryptocarya hypospodia

Tuckeroo Cupaniopsis anacardioides Diospyros compacta Diospyros geminata Diospyros hebecarpa

Dysoxylum gaudichaudianum Elaeocarpus grandis Blue Quandang

Eucalyptus crebra Eucalyptus platyphylla Eucalyptus exserta

Eucalyptus tereticornis Euroschinus falcatus Ficus racemosa Hymenosporum flavum Indigofera pratensis

Ixora timorense

Ganophyllum falcatum Scaly Ash Lagerstroemia archeriana Lophostemon confertus Lophostemon grandiflorus Lysiphyllum hookeri Macaranga tanarius Melaleuca dealbata Melaleuca leucadendra Melaleuca viminalis Melicope ellervana

Memecylon pauciflorum var. pauciflorum Micromelum minutum

Omphalea celata Pandanus sp.

Petalostigma pubescens

Planchonia careya Cocky Apple Ptychosperma elegans Solitaire palm

Phyllanthus novae-hollandiae

Sterculia quadrifida Peanut Tree Syzygium australe River cherry

Tabernaemontana orientalis

Timonius timon Tim Tam Tree

Trema tomentosa var. aspera Peach-leafed Poison Bush

Brush Box

Macaranga

Blue Tea Tree

Nthn Swamp Mahogany

Weeping Bottle Brush

Corkwood, Euodia

Native Lime Berry

Hookers Bauhinia

Trema orientalis

Vachellia bidwillii (WAS Acacia bidwillii) Corkwood Vitex trifolia Vitex

Guidelines for seed collecting:

- Only collect seed from your own property or with written permission
- Source plants must have grown from seed from the Whitsunday Region
- Collect ripe, mature seed & no more than 10% of the seed from any one plant
- Collect from several parts of the plant, mainly the middle & upper branches
- Use paper bags (not plastic) to store the seed & keep them in a cool place
- Label the bag with the species, location, date and your name. Not sure of your plant identification? Include a stem with some leaves & /or take a photo.

You can drop seed off at the nursery on Tuesday or Thursday mornings, or at Reef Catchments Office 45 Main St Proserpine, or call 0483 811 229.

You can make a tax deductable donation to the Whitsunday Catchment Landcare Fund at any time.

Just go to http://www.givenow.com.au/whitsundaycatchmentlandcare All donors will receive a receipt from Givenow at the time of the do-

> If you would like to receive this e-newsletter please email coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au with your request.

secure engine of GiveNow.com.au

Disclaimer: Information in this newsletter is offered as a guide only and while every care is taken to ensure its accuracy, Whitsunday Catchment Landcare does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.

Thank You Everyone!

Thank you to so many of you who have generously and kindly donated your container refunds to WCL. To date January 2020 to Dec. 2020) we have had \$ 175.50 donated. Your contributions are allocated to the WCL Public Fund which allows WCL to take on various projects for the ongoing education of our members and the wider community. Please find below our Containers for Change ID number to conveniently cut off and include in your bags. Anything Environmental who manage the local container exchange have moved to a QR Code– please find the new WCL ID below. Thank You again!

